

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 SY-05

AID-05 CU-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125821

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

REF: STATE 124484

1. IN MEETING WITH DEPTOFFS MAY 28, CAHEN OF BELGIAN EMBASSY, AS REPORTED REFTEL, STRONGLY ENDORSED IDEA OF BISHOP CATARZI AS POSSIBLE INTERMEDIARY WITH KABILA GROUP.

2. CAHEN ALSO MENTIONED HENRI CLARISSE, BELGIAN OF
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BELGIAN/GREEK PARENTAGE WHO IS BUSINESSMAN, REP OF

BELGIAN FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES, AND COMMERCIAL AUXILLIARY TO BELGIAN EMBASSIES SHUTTLLING BETWEEN BRAZZA-VILLE, BANGUI AND BRUSSELS. CLARISSE IS MEMBER OF BELGIAN PARTI SOCIAL CRETEN WHO WORKED FOR CHRISTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT PAPER COURRIER D'AFRIQUE IN LEOPOLDVILLE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. HE CULTIVATED WIDE CONTACTS AMONG CONGOLESE POLITICIANS, FOR WHICH HE WAS FORCED TO QUIT COURRIER. HE CONTINUED TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN CONGOLESE POLITICS AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND WAS EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY IN 1966. MOVING TO BRAZZAVILLE, HE MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH EXILED OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. ACCORDING TO CAHEN, CLARISSE STILL HAS TIES TO ZAIRIAN OPPOSITION IN BRAZZA-VILLE AND, GIVEN CONTINUING COMMERCE BETWEEN THIS GROUP AND REBEL ELEMENTS IN SECTOR TANGANYIKA, WOULD PROBABLY

HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY GETTING IN TOUCH WITH KABILA. CAHEN ALSO THINKS CLARISSE, WHOM HE DESCRIBES AS SOLID BUT "ADVENTURESOME," WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE MISSION AS INTERMEDIARY. ALTHOUGH CLARISSE MAY NOT KNOW KABILA PERSONALLY, HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH GABRIEL YUMBU AND MONGALA MICHELE. CLARISSE'S HANDICAP, WHICH CAHEN RECOGNIZES, WOULD BE HIS PROBABLE DISTASTEFULNESS TO MOBUTU. GIVEN THIS, WE THINK IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE USEFUL TO CALL ON CLARISSE AT THIS TIME, BUT WILL KEEP HIM IN MIND SHOULD OTHER POSSIBILITIES NOT PAN OUT.

3. CAHEN REMARKED IN PASSING THAT FONMIN BULA, FROM HIS DAYS AS "TONI TONI" IN STANLEYVILLE, IS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH PRP PRINCIPALS BUT WOULD WANT TO AVOID EXPOSED POSITION INTO WHICH ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY WOULD PUT HIM. IT STRIKES US, HOWEVER, THAT, GIVEN HIS PAST INVOLVEMENT WITH OPPOSITION MOVEMENT IN EXILE, BULA MAY HAVE EXCEPTIONAL INCENTIVE TO BRING TO HAPPY AND QUICK CONCLUSION A SITUATION WHICH COULD BECOME--INDEED MAY ALREADY BE--GREAT EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM. HE CANNOT RELISH IDEA OF WORLD PRESS DIGGING INTO PRP'S ANTECEDENTS IN THE CONGOLESE REBELLION AND UNEARTHING BULA'S OWN INVOLVEMENT. BULA SHOULD CERTAINLY HAVE VERY SENSITIVE APPRECIATION OF WHO MIGHT BE INTERMEDIARY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH GOZ AND PRP. INGERSOLL
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